

SITUATION REPORT NO. 6
INCIDENT NO. 2003-028
DATE: August 11, 2003 Time: 11:30 a.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: **Potential Fire Danger** – Lingering drought conditions prevail in portions of western North Dakota. The combination of hot, dry and windy weather conditions, and explosive vegetation significantly increases the risk of catastrophic wildfires. Wildfires that start are likely to grow quickly, and will be more intense and difficult to control, as well as more threatening to firefighters. The remainder of the fire season has the potential to be very active.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: So far this year, over 500 wildfires have been reported throughout North Dakota on more than 23,000 acres. The annual average is 600 fires on 11,000 acres. Average fire size is around 25 acres. So far this year, average fire size is nearly double. More than two dozen fires have been reported in western North Dakota counties since the middle of July. Six of these fires grew quickly to more than 200 acres. The average fire season extends from March 1 to October 31.
4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: No change from previous reports.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: On August 8, Governor John Hoeven declared a fire danger emergency for portions of western North Dakota in response to a combination of extreme weather and dry conditions, which significantly increases the risk of wildfires.

This action extends restrictions and prohibitions to private lands on days when the North Dakota Rangeland Fire Danger Index forecast is very high or extreme. For now, seventeen counties (Adams, Billings, Bowman, Burleigh, Dunn, Emmons, Grant, Golden Valley, Hettinger, Mercer, McKenzie, Morton, Oliver, Sioux, Slope, Stark and Williams) are included in this special action regarding private lands.

The Governor directed the N.D. Division of Emergency Management and the N.D. State Forest Service to implement all necessary operational procedures on fire danger statements issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) to all lands, both public and private.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No additional assistance has been requested.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No additional outside help has been requested.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director